

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 L-03 SCA-01 H-01
DHA-02 VO-03 ORM-02 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PPT-01 SCS-03 /056 W
-----051420Z 066954 /46
O 051233Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2671

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 0699

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, PFOR, BU (MAREVA, RUMYANA AND YORDANKA)
SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES, MAREV CASE, NEXT STEPS

REF: A) STATE 73112; B) STATE 73113; C) SOFIA 0693; D) STATE 73277;
E) MUNICH 0956; F) SOFIA 0578; G) SOFIA 0523

1. VERY GRATEFUL FOR REF A WHICH IS A SOPHISTICATED SUMMATION
OF THIS COMPLICATED CASE AND SHOWS THAT DEPT AND EMBASSY HAVE
MAINTAINED GOOD COMMUNICATONAND ARE GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT
ON THE STATE OF PLAY AND ON PROBLEMS AND ALTERNATIVES AHEAD.

2. WE AGREE DEPT SHOULD MEET WITH MAREVS IN NEAR FUTURE AND
EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THEM, MAKING CLEAR THAT CHOICE OF ACTION
IS ENTIRELY THEIRS AND THAT WHILE US GOVT WILL DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO ENSURE MRS. MAREV'S PROTECTION AND WELFARE AS AN
AMERICAN CITIZEN, THERE ARE SOME RISKS INVOLVED IN HER GOING
TO BULGARIA. AT SAME TIME, DEPT COU INXR#THEM THAT TO
MINIMIZE THESE RISKS:

A. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. HERZ EXTEND INVITATION TO MRS.
MAREV TO STAY AT THEIR RESIDENCE DURING HER STAY IN SOFIA.
WE CONSIDER THAT THIS IN ITSELF WOULD BE A SIGNAL TO THE
BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES THAT SHE ENJOYS THE FULLEST POSSIBLE
US PROTECTION AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN HER WELFARE.
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B. IN ADDITION, IF THEY DESIRE, EMBASSY WOULD BE
PREPARED TO HAVE AN OFFICER (EITHER CONSUL OR DCM,BOTH OF
WHOM SPEAK BULGARIAN) ACCOMPANY MRS. MAREV TO VARNA. HE
WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN ANY MEETINGS UNLESS REQUESTED TO
DO SO BY MRS. MAREV, BUT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO HER AT ALL
TIMES FOR ADVICE AND TO TAKE OFFICIAL NOTE OF ANY STATEMENTS

SHE MAY CARE TO MAKE. FYI: WE SHARE DEPT'S DOUBTS THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR EMBASSY OFFICER TO BE PRESENT WHEN MRS. MAREV SEES HER DAUGHTERS, BUT WOULD NOT OBJECT O # DOING SO IF SHE WISHES IT. END FYI.

C. WE WOULD LET BULGARIANS KNOW BEFORE MRS. MAREV ARRIVES HERE THAT ANY SHARP PRACTICE IN CONNECTION WITH HER VISIT WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS. (FYI WE WILL ALSO FIND A WAY OF SUGGESTING TO THEM INFORMALLY THAT ATTEMPTS TO PUT PRESSURE ON HER OR ON THE CHILDREN COULD CAUSE A "SCANDAL" JUST BEFORE THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN INTEREST OF ANYONE EXCEPTENMIES OF DETENTE", AND IF ALL THESE STEPS ARE TAKEN BELIEVE ON BALANCE THAT RISKS TO MRS. MAREV IN COMING HERE -- WITH AN AMERICAN PASSPORT -- WOULD BE SLIGHT. END FYI.)

3. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT MAREVS BE INFORMED THAT BULGARIANS WANT HER TO CALL AT THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THAT THEY PREFER TO ISSUE HER A BULGARIAN PASSPORT. NATURALLY DEPT WILL ALSO TELL HER THAT AS AMERICAN CITIZEN SHE WOULD BE TRAVELING ON AMERICAN PASSPORT. AS DEPT IS AWARE (REFS F AND G), GOB HAS TWICE INQUIRED WHETHER MRS. MAREV IS AWARE OF THEIR PROPOSAL THAT SHE COME ON A BULGARIAN PASSPORT AND OF THEIR "GUARANTEE", SO THIS STEP IS OVERDUE. WE WILL THEN NEED FROM MRS. MAREV A CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT, THAT CAN ALSO BE CONVEYED TO GOB, THAT SHE WILL NOT COME TO BULGARIA ON A BULGARIAN PASSPORT. SHE COULD PERHAPS TELL THE BUGARIAN EMBASSY THAT AS SHE IS A NATURALIZED AMERI-
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CAN CITIZEN, US LAW REQUIRES THAT SHE TRAVEL ON AN AMERICAN PASSPORT, AND "BULGARIAN EMBASSY SURELY CANNOT ADVISE HER TO WILLFULLY VIOLATE AMERICAN LAW."

4. AS SOON AS WE HAVE INFORMATION ON HER MEETING WITH BULGARIAN EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR WILL SEEK EARLY MEETING WITH ZHELENSKI IN WHICH HE WILL STATE THAT MRS. MAREV WISHES TO COME TO BULGARIA TO SEE HER CHILDREN AND THAT HE HAD BEENINSTRUCTED BY DEPT TO SEEK ASSURANCES THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO

A. OBTAIN BULGARIAN VISA IN HER AMERICAN PASSPORT;
B. MEET AND SPEND TIME WITH HER DAUGHTERS;
C. LEAVE BULGARIA WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE;
D. HAVE HER CHILDREN LEAVE, SHOULD THEY WISH TO DO
SO, EITHER IN HER COMPANY OR SHORTLY AFTER HER DEPARTURE.
WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE ZHELENSKI WOULD FORMALIZE HIS EXPECTED ASSURANCES,WE WILL SEEKTO BTAIN THEM IN WRITING. FAILING THIS, AMBASSADOR WILL WRITE ZHELENSKI

SUMMARIZING HIS ORAL RESPONSES AND ASKING TO BE INFORMED
PROMPTLY IF ANY PORTION OF THE SUMMARY WAS FOUND TO BE
INACCURATE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 0699

5. AT SAME MEETING, AMBASSADOR WOULD ASK THAT AS EVIDENCE
OF GOOD FAITH, GOB POSTPONE HEARING SET FOR MAY 20 IN
VARNA DISTRICT COURT (REF C) FOR A MINIMUM OF NINETY DAYS
TO ALLOW THE VISIT TO TAKE PLACE IN AN UNPRESSURED ATMOS-
PHERE WOULD POINT OUT THAT SHOULD GOB DECLINE TO DO
THIS, IT WOULD IMPLY TO PUBLIC OPINION IN OUR COUNTRY THAT
THEY WISHED TO BRING EMOTIONAL PRESSURES ON MRS. MAREV
AND THE CHILDREN. FYI. WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, REGARD
BULGARIAN FAILURE TO POSTPONE THE HEARING AS A REASON TO
CWL XF VS#MAREV'S VISIT. END FYI.

6. WHILE AGREEING IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID BATTLE
OVER THE BULGARIAN POSITION THAT ELEMENTS OF THE NATURALI-
ZATION TREATY ARE "SUPERSEDED", AND WHILE AMBASSADOR WOULD
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STEER CONVERSATION WITH ZHELENSKI
AWAY FROM THAT ASPECT, IF ZHELENSKI SHOULD REITERATE THE
CLAIM THAT MRS. MAREV IS A BULGARIAN CITIZEN WE THINK
AMBASSADOR SHOULD THEN HAND HIM AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON
REF B. WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE TO HAND IN SUCH AN
AIDE MEMOIRE IN ANY CASE, BUT WOULD DO SO SEPARATELY
AND A FEW DAYS LATER, AND TO HEAD OF FOURTH DEPARTMENT,
IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO AVOID HAVING THIS LEGAL DISPUTE
CONNECTED DIRECTLY WITH THE MAREV CASE. WE ALSO BELIEVE
DEPT SHOULD THEN HAND SIMILAR AIDE MEMOIRE TO GOB EMBASSY.

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7. WE HAVE ONLY ONE MINOR DISAGREEMENT WITH REF A, AND THAT CONCERNS THE KHRISOV CASE (PARA 11). IF THE BULGARIANS BRING THIS UP AGAIN IN CONNECTION WITH MRS. MAREV'S VISIT, WE DOUBT THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO SEPARATE THE TWO CASES AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. FOR THIS REASON, AND ALSO BECAUSE IT COULD HELP US IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAREV CASE, AND SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT, WE AGAIN URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT NOT WAIT ANY LONGER AND SHOULD OFFER NOW TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN BULGARIAN EMBASSY OFFICER AND LYUBOMIR KHRISTOV WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF HIS GUARDIAN. WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY DOING THIS AND SOMETHING TO GAIN FOR IT WOULD SET A HEALTHY PRECEDENT FOR MRS. MAREV'S POSSIBLE VISIT, WOULD REMOVE A PLAUSIBLE ARGUMENT OF HARDLINERS HERE, AND WOULD DO AWAY WITH A NEEDLESS IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS.

8. WE AND DEPT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN ASSUMING GOB GUARANTEES ARE GIVEN, VISA ISSUED IN US PASSPORT, AND STEPS DESCRIBED ABOVE TAKEN BY EMBASSY, MRS. MAREV'S VISIT TO BULGARIA WILL STILL POSE SOME RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES. AS DEPT POINTED OUT REF A, MRS. MAREV COULD WELL DECIDE TO STAY EVEN WITHOUT ANY UNDUE INFLUENCE ON PART OF GOB AND, SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, MR. MAREV DOUBTLESS WOULD DENOUNCE DEPT AND EMBASSY EVEN MORE VIGOROUSLY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT GOB COULD REACH MRS. MAREV SOME COMBINATION OF CARROT AND STICK, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, WHICH WOULD INDUCE HER TO ANNOUNCE SHE HAD DECIDED TO REMAIN. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT RISK OF MRS. MAREV BEING SUBJECTED TO SOME PROVOCATION OR ARREST ON TRUMPED UP CHARGES IS SLIGHT. (IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPT SHOULD ASK WHETHER ON DEPARTURE FROM BULGARIA MAREVS LEFT BEHIND ANY OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS SUCH AS TAXES,

UNPAID LOANS, ETC, WHICH HAVE NOT SINCE BEEN LIQUIDATED.)

9. ON BALANCE WE SEE MRS. MAREV'S VISIT, PRECEDED AND
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SURROUNDED BY STEPS DISCUSSED ABOVE, AND ACCOMPANIED BY MAREV'S AGREEMENT TO "TEMPORARILY" STAND DOWN HIS VIGIL, AS OFFERING BEST CHANCE TO RESOLVE THIS CASE.
HERZ

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